

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

May 2013

What are your BEST IDEAS?

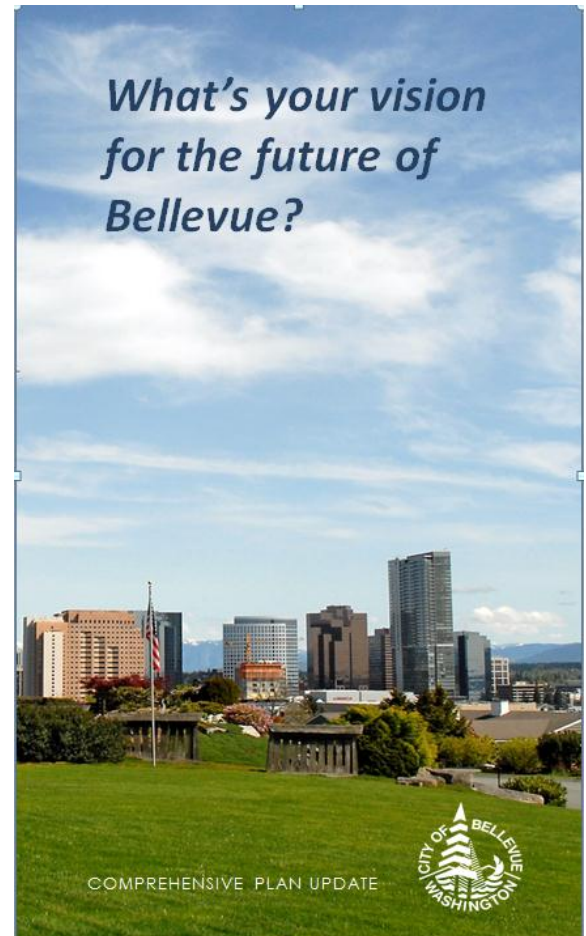
The Newport Hills Shopping Center could be more successful if it drew more teenagers, because where teens go, their parents often must follow. That's the thinking anyway from a group of Sammamish High School freshmen who presented urban planning ideas to Bellevue's Planning Commission last Thursday. Starting this week, residents and others will have their chance to share and vote on ideas for a better Bellevue.

With the Bellevue's Best Ideas forum, launching on May 1, the city is taking crowdsourcing to a new level. In the early stages of an effort to update the Bellevue's bedrock document – the comprehensive plan – the city is using a website that allows people to post suggestions for how they would like to see the city develop over the next 20 years. Now adults may not have the same priorities as the students in Sammamish High's AP Human Geography, who favored “hipster” establishments over “mainstream” ones when they considered how to revitalize some shopping centers. But planners hope residents will feel free to express all kinds of ideas, no matter how unconventional.

Ideascale, used by the White House as well as businesses and state and local governments, presents posted ideas. Visitors to the site, <https://bellevuesbestideas.ideascale.com> can post comments on those ideas and vote whether they agree or disagree on them. Or they can post their own ideas. The ideas with the most “agree” votes can show up at the top. “We're certainly making use of traditional means of engagement, including forums with the city's boards and commissions and presentations for residents,” noted Planning and Community Development director Chris Salomone. “In this day and age, it only makes sense to use social media to encourage participation too.”

The Best Ideas campaign will run from May 1 to July 4. All ideas submitted will be added as public comment in the comp plan, and some may be included with amendments to the plan.

Complete information about the comp plan update is available at www.bellevuewa.gov/comp-plan-update.htm. Or you can contact Mike McCormick Huentelman, Neighborhood Outreach Manager, 425-452-4089 or mmhuent@bellevuewa.gov; or Paul Inghram, Comprehensive Planning Manager, 425-452-4070 or [pingram@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:pingham@bellevuewa.gov)





Neighbor Link Helps Neighborhoods to Build Community



It is that special time of year where we think about renewal. The weather is improving and school is winding down. It is a time for sprucing up the yard and tackling outside home projects. It is a time of celebrations and gatherings with family, friends and neighbors you haven't seen; or new neighbors you have yet to meet. High school students are looking for employment and community service hours for school. How about thinking about Neighbor Link, the city of Bellevue's program designed to build relationships, strengthen neighborhoods and build community? Our program can help you meet your plan for renewal within your local community and at the same time address needs of those less fortunate.

Beginning June 1st – August 31st, we will kick off the annual food drive, *End Summer Hunger* program, to benefit Hopelink. In 2012, the city donated over 2000 tons of food. While there are signs of an improving economy, many can't make ends meet and the need for putting food-on-the-table still exists, so let's do it again and donate more, with an even bigger Bellevue with the newly annexed areas.



Additionally with Neighbor Link, we encourage service projects of your own design including garage sales with proceeds going to non-profits, neighborhood beautification and clean-up events. In your planning have you considered reaching out to the elderly in your community or limited English speakers, but not sure how? In Neighborhood Outreach we will provide planning guidance, tools and resources including marketing materials to help you with your event.

Please contact Carol Ross to begin planning your event at 425- 452-7917 or email cross@bellevuewa.gov for more information. Neighborhoods planning and holding projects by July 20th will be eligible for special giveaways to encourage neighbor participation. Please note we need to know about your

event two weeks in advance to help you plan successfully!

Neighborhood Forum to Discuss Climate Change

Join experts from academia, science, business and the City to learn how our community can react and adapt to climate change at a local level at the **May 14 Neighborhood Forum – Climate Change and Our Community (Tuesday, 7 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers 450 - 110th Ave NE)** How can community resiliency increase and how can we adapt to changes that we will face in the future? Explore innovative ideas and programs and how we can all be better stewards of our environment. Panel presentation followed by audience Q & A.



Bellevue Neighborhood Forums are sponsored by these neighborhoods: Bellecrest, Conifer Crest, Highlands East II, Horizon Crest, Horizon Heights, Newport Hills, Somerset, Sunset, Village on Main and Woodridge.

For more information, see the [flyer](#) or contact Julie Ellenhorn at 425-452-5372 or jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov.

Day of Sharing and Caring



The City of Bellevue is once again joining in partnership with Jubilee Reach in a “Day of Sharing and Caring”, on Saturday August 24th, 2013. Jubilee Reach with over 300 volunteers and donations of materials from local businesses from all over Bellevue will provide outside improvements for up to 20 homes in Bellevue. These improvements will enhance the appearance and safety of homes within our neighborhoods. Some ideas of home improvements that will be provided include exterior painting, light carpentry work, yard and carport cleanup, and deck repair. Those homes selected must be owner occupied and there must be a need. A panel will review requests that have been submitted by the deadline of Saturday May 25th.

If you don’t have an immediate need for these improvements, consider volunteering and being part of an unforgettable experience. To learn more about Jubilee Reach’s impact in the greater Bellevue community, “providing opportunity, transforming communities, and restoring hope”, visit their website at <http://www.jubileereach.org>

For more information about the “Day of Sharing and Caring”, please contact Gary King at 206-419-5230 or email garyk@jubileereach.org

Got conflicts with your neighbors? Try Mediation

People mediate disputes for many reasons: to find peaceful settlements, to heal damaged relationships, or to create positive outcomes. But sometimes, the legal arena seems best. Let’s say your neighbors build a fence on your property, or maybe they cut down your tree to get a better view. They won’t listen to you -- so, you hire an attorney. Your attorney reviews your case, identifying strengths and downplaying weaknesses. A lawsuit is filed, and it feels like progress.

Meanwhile, your neighbor does the same thing: their attorney prepares to prove you wrong! The trial date looms, and you both smell victory, a matter of principle! Yet someone will lose -- judges can only rule for one side. And even a ‘winning’ party is often unsatisfied -- they don’t get to say what they want, the award is too small, or important issues are deemed legally irrelevant.



Sometime before trial, your attorney asks you what **WOULD** it take to settle, and what **IS** most important to you? Your attorney might see more weakness in your case now that he has read the other party’s brief. He suggests going to a “settlement conference” with the other side. It’s common practice. Most cases settle, and very few go to trial.

What if you could have had that final conversation sooner? What is really important to you? Could you and your neighbor agree? That conversation can take place in mediation – privately and with no other options lost. And it can happen early, before you’ve spent all that time, money and energy. What if you had that conversation before damage has been done to your relationship with your neighbor?

By mediating, your agreement isn’t limited to the yes/no and black/white of the courtroom. And you can move forward knowing it won’t be painful the next time you see your neighbor. So when you have a conflict, call the Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program at 425-452-4091 or check out the program website http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood_conflict.htm

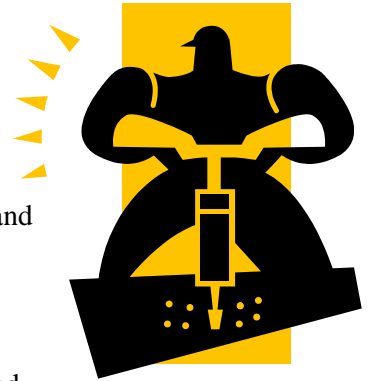
Construction Soon on 120th Ave NE near Wilburton

Construction is going to begin on 120th Avenue NE between NE 4th Street and NE 8th Street by the middle of the month and continue until March 2014.

This project will widen the existing roadway to five lanes, two lanes in each direction with center-turn lane pockets between NE 4th and NE 8th streets. A new traffic signal will also be constructed at the NE 6th Street intersection. Bike lanes and sidewalks will be included on both sides, along with landscaping and urban design treatments, street lighting, storm drainage and detention, retaining walls, and utility improvements.

The 120th project will be the first project moving forward as part of the Mobility and Infrastructure (M&I) Initiative, and will occur in conjunction with the NE 4th Street Extension. Future phases of the 120th project will extend the improvements northward. The M&I Initiative was formed to address continuing growth in Downtown Bellevue and to support planned growth in the Bel-Red and Wilburton areas. This project will also accommodate the new NE 4th Street Extension and the planned extension of the NE 6th Street High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) only facility.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Steve Costa, project manager, at 425-452-2845 or scosta@bellevuewa.gov



City Commissions Seek Candidates to Fill Vacancies

If you want to volunteer your time and energy to help shape Bellevue's future, now is the time: fill out an application to fill vacancies on Arts, Planning and Transportation commissions.

Made up of citizen volunteers appointed by the mayor with the council's concurrence, the commissions meet regularly and advise the council on topics important to the city's governance. The members serve four-year terms, offering their time and expertise.

The Arts Commission advises and makes recommendations to the council on matters of art, with the goal of enhancing the cultural experience and raising the art consciousness of Bellevue. The commission advises on the city's Public Art Program, direct funding to arts organizations working in Bellevue and cultural planning. The Arts Commission meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

The Planning Commission reviews updates to the comprehensive plan and makes recommendations to the council. The commission also reviews land use management ordinances and regulations along with other council-directed work. The Planning Commission meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. and has other special meetings as scheduled.

The Transportation Commission advises the council on transportation-related issues such as the Transportation Facilities Plan; changes to the Traffic Standards Code; long- and short-range funding programs; short-term planning studies and implementation programs; the Capital Investment Program; and, other council-directed activities. The Transportation Commission meets on the second and fourth Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.



All adults who reside within the corporate limits of the city can apply. Residents of newly annexed areas are particularly encouraged and diversity is greatly valued by the City.

Applications for the vacancies on the Commissions are due by May 10 and here are 3 different ways to apply:

- Apply online:
<http://surveys.bellevuewa.gov/LoginActiveDirectory.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fTakeSurvey.aspx%3fSurveyID%3d98MI314&SurveyID=98MI314>
- Hand delivered: Second floor at City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE
Forms can also be faxed to you by phoning 452-6466, or be picked up at the following locations:
 - City Hall
 - Downtown Bellevue Regional Library
 - Lake Hills Library
 - Crossroads Mini City Hall at Bellevue.
- Mailing: P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, Washington, 98009-9012
- Fax: 425-452-5247
- Email: mmurphy@bellevuewa.gov

For more information, please call the City Clerk's Office at 425-452-6466.

May Meetings

(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. You may confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. Or consult the city web pages listed below to download agendas.)

5/2 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Asset Management Program & Failure & Claims Analysis, Wastewater Condition Assessment Program, West Side Storage Project, King County Solid Waste Interlocal Agreement (Information Only)

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm

5/2 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30-10:30am, 1E-120) Attorney General's Office Annual Older Adult Initiatives Update, Bob Ferguson, Attorney General

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

5/6 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) East Link: Station Area Planning, Bellevue Transit Master Plan (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Proclamations for Arts Appreciation Month, National Kids to Parks Day, and National Older American's Month, Consent Calendar, PSE Franchise Renewal, Ethics Ordinance http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

5/7 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Youth & Young Adult Homelessness Initiative

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

5/7 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Regular Meeting includes public hearings on Land Use Code Amendment to allow Retail Auto Sales in the Eastgate Office/Limited Business (OLB); Extension of interim zoning control regulating medical marijuana; and, a rezone to amend allowed uses at Kelsey Creek Shopping

Center. http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

5/7 Arts Commission (4:30, 1E-109) East Link public art, Art themes in the Comprehensive Plan, Cultural Compass update, Commissioner Elections http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

5/8 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Annual Comprehensive Plan amendments threshold review public hearing,

Comprehensive Plan update study session, Medical Cannabis Collective Gardens Regulations study session http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

5/9 Transportation Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Meeting, Eastlink Project Update, Downtown Transportation Plan Update

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

5/13 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Shoreline Master Program Discussion, Downtown High-Rise Sign Code Amendment, Comprehensive Plan Update

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

5/14 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, 1E-112) Agenda to be determined

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

5/16 East Link Final Design Kick-Off Open House for Downtown Bellevue (5:00-7:00, Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave NE) Meeting will focus on the alignment from Main Street to Lake Bellevue including Bellevue Transit Center and Hospital stations <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm>

5/20 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Bellevue Transit Master Plan, Shoreline Master Program Discussion and International Fire Code (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Report from Arts Commission, Management Brief regarding Bel-Red Street Names, Consent Calendar, 120th Ave NE Stage 2 Project Ordinance http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

5/21 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Agenda to be determined

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

5/22 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Medical Cannabis Collective Gardens Regulations study session Light Rail Transit (LRT) and Station Area Planning

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

5/27 Memorial Day – All City offices closed

5/28 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional Issues, Neighborhoods Discussion, Narrow List of Executive Search Firm Candidates

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

5/30 East Link Final Design Kick-Off Open House for South Bellevue (5:00-7:00, Bellevue Hilton Grand Ballroom, 300 112th Ave SE, Bellevue) Meeting will focus on Bellevue Way SE to Main Street including the South Bellevue and East Main stations <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm>

Subscribe this newsletter on http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood_news.htm. Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Office offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, call 452-6836.